

166,933 units, to other countries.<sup>6</sup> These used tire “units” are of varying size and type, but based on an average weight of 22.5 to 32.8<sup>7</sup> pounds per tire for a mixed load, the total quantity exported would equate to 11,684 tons (1.2 million PTEs) to 17,033 tons (1.7 million PTEs), consistent with this report’s estimate of 0.7 million California-generated used tires being exported when additional quantities of used tire exports from out-of-state are considered.

## ***Crumb Rubber***

### **Overview**

In 2015, approximately 7.6 million PTEs of California-generated tires were used to produce crumb rubber, a 5 percent increase over the amount in 2014, but 27 percent lower than the all-time high of 10.5 million PTEs used to make crumb rubber in 2012. These estimates exclude the portion of feedstock used by California crumb rubber producers that was derived from non-California tires imported from other states, which in 2015 was an estimated 198,300 PTEs. While a complete estimate is not available for the quantity of tire wire and fiber generated in 2015, the vast majority of both were diverted, with more than 16,000 tons of wire/metal recycled and 12,523 tons of fiber reported consumed as fuel at California cement kilns consuming TDF (this amount is excluded from the TDF estimates presented later in this report). Table 2 summarizes estimated volumes of crumb rubber shipped to each market segment in 2015. An estimated 109.4 million pounds of crumb rubber was shipped, up from 98.4 million pounds in 2014. (Note: These production estimates are not adjusted to exclude the portion produced from out-of-state tires.) More than half flowed to paving applications, including Caltrans, local government (some supported by CalRecycle grants), and privately sponsored projects. The second-largest crumb market is the turf infill segment, followed by the ground rubber/nuggets market segment (i.e., loose-fill playground, landscape mulch, and equestrian material) and Molded Products.

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<sup>6</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, USA Trade Online. <https://usatrade.census.gov/index.php?do=login>

<sup>7</sup> According to the Rubber Manufacturers Association, on average light duty tires such as scrap passenger tires weigh 22.5 pounds, commercial tires such as scrap truck and bus tires weigh 120 pounds, and the average of all light duty and commercial scrap tires (excluding off-the-road tires) is 32.8 pounds. Source: “2013 U.S. Scrap Tire Management Summary.” Rubber Manufacturers Association, November 2014, page 4. <https://rma.org/publications/scrap-tire-publications/market-reports>